PICTURE OF THE MONTH

This TIROS V photograph of the Great Lakes area was taken at 2037 GMT, June 20, 1962, and was received at Wallops Station, Va., on Pass No. 019 via direct readout (camera 1, frame 4). Local mean solar time at Chicago was approximately 2:45 p.m. Partial outlines of the lake shores and the state boundaries have been added to facilitate location. CHI=Chicago and SSM=Sault Ste. Marie.

The unusually complicated cloud pattern is not wholly explained, but is doubtless the result of several influences. Winds over lower Michigan and Indiana at the surface and 850-mb. levels were generally N or NNW at this time, and a pronounced crescent-shaped clear area appears immediately to the lee of the relatively cold water of Lake Michigan. This clear crescent has its greatest width in the region near South Bend, Ind. Elsewhere over lower Michigan and Indiana afternoon cumulus clouds predominate.

Superimposed on this convective pattern are the effects of a weak cold front which lies ENE–WSW across lower Michigan and southern Lake Michigan, and thence westward across extreme northern Illinois. Cumulonimbus clouds are reported along the front east of Muskegan and west of Chicago. The whitish appearance of much of Lake Michigan is believed to be due to low stratus along the front and in the cooler air behind it, but it could also be due partly to specular reflection. In contrast, Lake Huron appears dark and almost completely cloud free.

The bright triangular patch near Green Bay, Wis., is a dense mass of stratocumulus cloud.